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Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/783,267	VOGEL ET AL	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Matt Luby	3611	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the application filed 2/20/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-28.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 20 February 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>5/27/04</u> | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art fails to disclose a transport apparatus including an external power detector, the external power detector being operable to determine if external power is supplied to the transport apparatus and provide a power indication signal in response thereto; a caster mode detector, the caster mode detector being operable to detect a mode of operation of the casters and provide a caster indication signal in response thereto, and a controller coupled to the external power detector to receive the power indication signal therefrom and coupled to the caster mode detector to receive the caster indication signal therefrom, the controller being operable to provide a control signal to the actuator in response to the power indication signal and the caster indication signal.

The prior art fails to disclose a transport apparatus including an actuator configured to move the traction device between a first position spaced apart from the floor and a second position in contact with the floor; a caster mode detector configured to detect at least one of the brake mode of operation and the steer mode of operation of the casters and to provide a caster indication signal in response thereto; and a traction engagement controller coupled to the caster mode detector to receive the caster indication signal therefrom, the traction engagement controller being configured to provide a control signal to the actuator in response to the caster indication signal.

The prior art fails to disclose a transport apparatus including an actuator configured to move the traction device between a first position spaced apart from the floor and a second position in contact with the floor; an external power detector being configured to determine if external power is supplied to the transport apparatus and provide a power indication signal in response thereto, and a traction engagement controller coupled to the external power detector to receive the power indication signal therefrom, the traction engagement controller being configured to provide a control signal to the actuator in response to the power indication signal.

The prior art fails to disclose a transport apparatus including an actuator configured to move the traction device between a first position spaced apart from the floor and a second position in contact with the floor; an external power detector configured to determine if external power is supplied to the transport apparatus and provide a power indication signal in response thereto; a caster mode detector configured to detect at least one of the brake mode of operation and the steer mode of operation of the casters and to provide a caster signal indication signal in response thereto, an enable input device being operable to receive an enable command from a user and provide an enable signal in response to the enable command; and a controller coupled to the external power detector to receive the power indication signal therefrom, coupled to the caster mode detector to receive the caster indication signal therefrom, and coupled to the enable input device to receive the enable signal therefrom, the controller being operable to provide a control signal to the actuator in response to the power indication signal, the caster indication signal and the enable signal.

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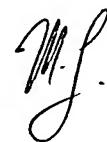
2. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Matt Luby whose telephone number is (703) 305-0441. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m..

4. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lesley Morris can be reached on (703) 308-0629. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

5. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Matt Luby
Examiner
Art Unit 3611



M.I.
September 16, 2004



LESLEY D. MORRIS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600